RRT IV Incident Specific Approval
Use of surface washing agents offshore Mississippi, Alabama and Florida

RRT IV authorizes the use of surface washing agents as part of offshore vessel decontamination plans for vessels impacted by the effects of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

This authorization can be utilized by FOSC or their representative as needed when the following guidelines are incorporated into a specific decontamination plan.

Guidelines:

1. Product Evaluation and Selection: In accordance with RRT4 adopted surface washing agent guidance (Erlanger KY 2006), the selected agent must be on the EPA Product Schedule and be considered a lift and float type product. The use of a strong lift and float type surface washing agent, like PES51 or Cytosol is desired and highly recommended. The desired outcome in the selection of a surface washing agent is to minimize the toxicity and impact on the water column. COrexit 9580 is also a candidate surface washing agent, but due to its propensity to disperse some of the oil, containment and recovery of product is less feasible. If dispersion of the oil into the water column is desired for some reason, Corexit 9580 may be a good choice. Due to effectiveness of lift and float characteristics and lower toxicity, Cytosol is the best choice for this application. Selection of the surface washing agent should be documented. If a strong lift and float product is not used, reasons for selection of a different product should be documented.

2. Containment and Recovery: All decontamination plans shall include the use of boom and/or other recovery strategies to capture, to the maximum extent possible all products of the decontamination process when feasible given weather, sea conditions, and safety factors. The goal is to recover and dispose to the maximum extent possible rather than disperse into the water column. To this extent, when possible, the vessel being decontaminated should be fully boomed and all rinse and sheens created are to be recovered and disposed of properly. The inability to meet this guideline should be a primary focus of the plan. Deviation from this focus due to weather limitations, safety concerns and other impacts outside the FOSC's or their representative's control are acceptable but must be documented and minimized.

3. Monitoring, Documentation, Reporting: All plans should specify elements for monitoring, documentation and reporting. Monitoring should include elements to monitor for efficacy of the cleaning, presence of marine species and/or birds in the operation area, and operational success of containment and recovery. The results of all monitoring elements should be documented by a report using the form developed for this purpose as attached and photos if appropriate and submitted from the FOSC to the RRTIV Co-Chairs and S&T committee in care of: Jardine.Richard@epamail.epa.gov and Gregory Hogue@ios.doi.gov upon conclusion of the cleaning activity within three days. The RRT upon reviewing these reports may decide to modify reporting requirements and or recommendations for further use.

4. Best Management Practices: All plans shall include best management practices for operations including go/no go criteria related to sea and weather conditions, presence of species of concern, contingencies for any species that may be affected by the operation, or inability to adequately clean, contain, and recover the oil and oily rinse water.

5. Location and Proximity to Sensitive Resources: All plans shall include a specific location for decontamination operations to be conducted. The location must be in an offshore environment from the coast of Mississippi, Alabama or Florida (at least 3 nm from nearest land except the west coast of FL which is at least 6 nm). Prior to implementing a specific decontamination plan, RRT IV concurrence on the location must be gained from the NOAA representative to the RRT. The selected sites should be predetermined and evaluated for any proximity concerns to sensitive resources in the area that may be affected.

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Approval & Concurrence:

USCG Co-chair:	Drew Pearson OK	5/20/2010	MS Rep: Greg Jackson OK	/20/2010
EPA Co-chair:	Shane Hitchcock OK	5/20/2010	AL Rep: Eric Dear OK	/20/2010
NOAA Trustee Rep:	Brad Benggio OK	5/20/2010	FL Rep: Doug White OK	/20/2010
DOI Trustee Rep:	Greg Hogue OK	5/20/2010		

AFFIRMATION RECEIVED BY E-MAIL. RRT IV USCG COORDINATOR
WILL HAVE A HARD COPY SIGNED. [signature] K. McFarlane

MONITORING, DOCUMENTATION, REPORTING FORM

For use of surface washing agents offshore Mississippi, Alabama and Florida for DECON of Vessels

Regional Response Team IV

Date: _____ **TIME: Start:** _____ **Finish:** _____

Vessel Name: _____ **Vessel Length:** _____

Total area to be cleaned (square feet): _____

Surface Washing Agent: _____

LAT/LONG of cleaning location: _____

On-scene weather and seas: _____

Lift & Float product? ____**YES** _____ **NO**

If "NO," reason(s) for selection of a dispersing product:

_____

_____

Presence/description of any observed wildlife in operating area: *(Note: Operations not to affect any species of birds, marine mammals, or sea turtles. Operations should cease, and presence of species in the area should be reported to Wildlife Unit of the Operations Section at (phone: _____).*

_____

_____

CLEANING:

___ **Effective**
___ **Partially Effective** **Estimated Percent Effectiveness:** _____**%**
___ **Not Effective**

CONTAINMENT & RECOVERY:

___ **Effective**
___ **Partially Effective** **Estimated Percent Effectiveness:** _____**%**
___ **Not Effective**

Estimated amount of oil and rinse water recovered: _____ **gallons**

Photos taken?

___ **Yes** **Description/Comments:** _____
___ **No** _____

Wildlife affected?

___ **Yes** **Comments:** _____
___ **No** _____

Sheen or oil visible after operations complete?

___ **Yes** **Comments:** _____
___ **No** _____

Additional Comments/Observations:

_____

_____

_____